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LIGHTS AND SHADOWS OF THE WAR

Correspondence of the Associated Press

HEADQUARTERS OF THE RUSSIAN ARMY OF THE CENTER, Jan. 14.—The following story of the Twenty First Flying Column of the First Siberian corps was related by Andrew Kalpaschnikoff, former secretary of the Russian embassy at Washington. Kalpaschnikoff offered his service to his country at the outbreak of the war and was assigned to service with the Red Cross. He became identified with the 21st Flying Column and soon was placed in command of that body.

"The reckless daring of the First Siberian corps," said Kalpaschnikoff, "is well known throughout Russia. The flying column attached to such a fighting organization has no easy task. In the first days of the war several columns, attracted by the brilliant achievements of that corps in the defence of Warsaw, strove for the honor of working with it, and especially with the famous first division; but they found the work too hard, or the conditions too dangerous, and after brief periods abandoned the task.

The Twenty-First Flying Column which had been with the corps since the end of November, 1914, has proven its worth. It was organized at the expense of a rich patroness, Countess Tolstoy, already famed for the work she has done in the founding of the hospitals and feeding points for the sick and wounded. Early in October it did its first work with one of the European corps sent to the relief of Lovitch. At a critical moment, when the enemy had broken through the Russian lines in two places, the column took up its task on its own initiative. The commander at that time, Bashkiroff, dispatched two sections to a neighboring village in charge of Terotchin, son of the Emperor's physician, and myself.

"A diplomat and a student, neither of whom had even been in war before, could not judge of the danger and we rode boldly into the village, half of which had already been occupied by the Germans. The latter opened fire on our sanitary carriages with rapid fire guns. Part of the carriages were destroyed. We recalled our men and started back as fast as we could. The Germans shelled the road over which we rode to our headquarters, but found that the road from Lovitch had been cut. With the wounded we had picked up we had to make a retreat of thirty-five miles in one night, most of the way under the shell fire of the Germans, to Skiernivitz. There we found that the town had been ordered evacuated by the Russian troops and we were practically the only ones left there. A hot fight was in progress outside the city. At the last moment a Russian success on one of

the flanks saved the city and enabled the Russians to repulse the Germans. Being the only Red Cross unit on the grounds, as the result of a mere chance, we found and fed, in two days, 3,017 wounded.

"We were ordered then to move on with the corps of the famous General Mishenko, known as the Cossack Raider of the Japanese war. We took up our work in his advance lines just at the time the Germans made their second dash on Warsaw. Our corps stood firm for nine days, repulsing attack after attack. This nine days among the Caucasian heroes was the most trying and dangerous, but at the same time the most instructive, of our experiences. In one night seven hundred wounded were found and cared for, the greater part in the trenches under heavy artillery fire. Several sanitarians were wounded.

"When new corps came to the rescue the Caucasians were ordered to make a rapid move back to join fresh troops and begin an advance together. The move was executed so suddenly and rapidly that the military aid had no time to take out the wounded lying in several villages near by. The last section of the column volunteered to creep into the village and rescue the wounded who otherwise were threatened with being burned, fire having broken out in several places. Through the blackness of the night, lit only by the bursting shells, we made our way into the village and removed eighty men from the danger zone. The staff considered them lost and upon learning of their rescue General Mishenko called out the heroes of that night thanked them for their work and made them the subject of a flattering order to his regiment. Immediately after that the commander of the column fell ill and I was left in command.

"Among the troops whose gallantry stopped the Germans a second time from coming to Warsaw were those of the First Siberian corps.

"For the first time having seen the magnetic Siberian officers," said Kalpaschnikoff, "I decided to offer the services of the column of that brilliant corps. I went to the commander of the corps, General Pleshkoff, who accepted my services. I was fascinated by him, and my impression of him, gained that day, as a man beloved by his soldiers, big hearted and fatherly, has never changed."

During the long tenure of the line of the Beura river before Warsaw, when the shelling at times was so intense that it seemed to him that no human being could live in the trenches Kalpaschnikoff and his column took out and cared for several thousands

of wounded, victims not only of shelling but of German gases.

Continuing his narration, Commander Kalpaschnikoff said:

"About this time the Prasnitz operation came to a crisis. A blow was necessary to stop the development of the German plan directed on Vilna. The Siberian corps was summoned to start on a few hours' notice and proceeded by forced marches 137 kilometers to Prasnitz over fearful roads and in wretched weather. Two days was allowed to cover the distance. The world knows of that brilliant dash and what was its result. The military hospital, in this rapid march, had been left behind. The Twenty-First Flying column followed and was the first to enter after the city had been taken by the First and Third Siberian regiments. The sights we saw cannot be adequately described. More than 2700 wounded Germans without having had any care whatever, were lying or crawling about the streets, hiding in basements and out-buildings, evidently hoping that the Germans would make a counter-attack and re-enter the city. The ditches were full of dead and wounded as were the open spaces about the city and the outlying villages. Many of our own men were scattered among the German wounded. We found the work almost beyond our capacity, far from a railroad and with the troops always moving on. We formed concentration camps at various points and put students in charge of them. In these camps we collected 3,350 wounded."

To accomplish the rescue Kalpaschnikoff and the student had to crawl more than a mile along a ditch, but in plain view and in constant range of the German trenches, but, in the word of Kalpaschnikoff, "the German soldiers shot rather badly."

After the Germans left Heiloff the population was destitute and facing starvation. The Flying Column in the succeeding days fed there 22,698 persons besides stamping out an epidemic of typhoid fever which for a time threatened to assume large proportions.

TEMPERATURE REPORT

Highest temperature yesterday, 22; a year ago, 38.
Lowest temperature last night, 16; a year ago, 25.

A Kentucky man has invented an electric fan to be mounted under an umbrella to circulate air, so designed that it can be folded as the umbrella is closed.

MOLYBDENUM A AS
TUNGSTEN SUBSTITUTE

TECHNICAL JOURNAL DISCUSSES
TWO METALS THAT ARE MIN-
ED IN NEVADA

One of the most spectacular advances in commodity prices occasioned by the war says the Engineering & Mining Journal has been in tungsten, both metal and ore. This has been due to the extraordinary demand for tungsten steel—an essential constituent in making high-speed tool steel.

Before the war high-speed tool steel was worth about 70 cents per pound, tungsten about 60 cents per pound and tungsten ore about \$6 per unit. At present high speed tool steel fetches about \$3 per pound, tungsten about \$5 per pound, and tungsten ore about \$50 per unit. Even at the enhanced prices supplies are scarce.

The fabulous price for tungsten ore has stimulated prospecting for it throughout North and South America. This ore is not known to occur in large deposits. The annual production of concentrated ore in the United States previous to the war was only about 1,400 tons. However, this ore has now become so valuable that the discovery of a deposit that affords a single carload is the finding of a fortune. A ton of ore assaying 60 per cent tungsten trioxide—the standard commercial grade—at \$50 per unit is worth \$3,000; a carload of 40 tons would be \$120,000. So precious is this ore that the assay offices are being scoured for specimens. Brokers do not sneer at trade in one-pound lots. The purchasing agent of the Crucible Steel company is very grateful if somebody can give him 100 pounds.

A contributory factor in the production of this situation was the utter stupidity of the British authorities. They fought the advance from the beginning. When they were offered some tungsten ore, they came back with a lower bid—trying to dicker in what was not a dickering market—and naturally failed to get what they wanted. Then they practically commandeered the supply of tungsten ore in the British empire, appointing official brokers and fixing a price of 55s per unit, or about \$800 per 2,000 pounds of 60 per cent ore of exchange be figured at 4.86. Previous to the war that would have been regarded as a fine price, but the producer in Australia, Burma, Malaya and elsewhere does not think very much of it when the same grade of ore is fetching \$3,000 or so per ton in America.

In the meanwhile there is relief immediately at hand if the manufac-

turers of tool steel would only avail themselves of it. We mean in the substitution of molybdenum steel for tungsten steel. It is well known that molybdenum steel has excellent qualities of more or less the same character as tungsten steel. It is claimed by some authorities that molybdenum steel is superior in certain respects to tungsten steel. The chronic reluctance of manufacturers to get out of the beaten tracks is offered as an explanation of their blindness to the merits of molybdenum steel. But even if it were not preferable with tungsten at 60 cents per pound, it might be when that metal is more than eight times as high.

The point is that molybdenum ore and the products thereof are now a drug on the market. While the tungsten mines are being worked at the limit of their capacity, the molybdenum mines have had to be closed, and the smelters of molybdenum ore are carrying large unsold stocks of the products that probably they would be glad to sell at cost.

MASONIC NOTICE

Called communication of Tonopah lodge No. 28, F. & A. M., will be held this Friday evening, Jan. 14th, fellow craft work. Visiting brethren cordially invited. By order W. M. J. E. PECK, Secretary. Adv. J1312

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